

Overview and Status of the Regional Board's TMDL Program



Topics to be Covered

- Background - Surface Water Quality Management, Porter-Cologne, and Clean Water Act Section 303(d)
- Current Status – TMDLs being Addressed, Resources Available, Stakeholder Groups
- Challenges

Background

Tools to Address Water Quality Problems

- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act
- Clean Water Act Section 303(d)

Background

Tools to Address Water Quality Problems

- Clean Water Act Section 303(d)
 - ◆ Identify Waters not Meeting Objectives
 - ◆ Establish Priorities for Developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
 - ◆ Establish TMDLs designed to attain Objectives

Background

Major Components of TMDL Program

- 303(d) List (Clean Water Act)
 - ◆ Compile water quality data
 - ◆ Evaluate data
 - ◆ ID waterbody and pollutant not meeting objectives
 - ◆ Board approval of 303(d) list
 - ◆ First list established 1975

Background

Major Components of TMDL Program

- TMDL Development (Clean Water Act)
 - ◆ TMDL Report
 - ◆ Problem Statement
 - ◆ Numeric Target
 - ◆ Source Analysis
 - ◆ Allocations
 - ◆ Linkage Analysis
 - ◆ Public Participation

Background

Major Components of TMDL Program

- Implementation Plan (Porter-Cologne)
 - ◆ Practices and Technology to Reduce Loads
 - ◆ Non-Regulatory and Regulatory Approaches
 - ◆ Compliance Time Frame
 - ◆ Interim Milestones and Targets
 - ◆ Public Participation

Background

Major Components of TMDL Program

- Basin Plan Amendment (Porter-Cologne)
 - ◆ Policies and Regulations for TMDL and Implementation Plan
 - ◆ Evaluation of Alternatives
 - ◆ Consider Economics
 - ◆ Identification of Responsible Parties
 - ◆ Schedule for Review/Revision
 - ◆ Public Participation

Current Status

303(d) List

- Board adopted last list 1998
- 150 water body/pollutant combinations identified
- Includes most major waterways
- Pollutants include pesticides, selenium, salinity, mercury, heavy metals, nutrients, bacteria, and sediment

Current Status

TMDL Reports and Basin Plan Amendments

- Federal grant requires 12 TMDL reports in next 3 Years.
- Draft Basin Plan Amendments shortly after TMDL reports

Current Status

Priorities & Timeline for TMDL Reports

Watershed	June 2001	June 2002	June 2003
San Joaquin River	selenium, salt / boron	diazinon, chlorpyrifos	
Delta			dissolved oxygen, diazinon, chlorpyrifos mercury
Sacramento River	heavy metals	diazinon	
Clear Lake	mercury		
Cache Creek			mercury

Resources

- Currently 8.7 PY with 6.3 PY to be added
- \$346K /year in contracts
- Leverage other Programs

Resource Distribution

	State-wide	RB5
Current	57 PY	8.7 PY (15%)
TMDL-NPS	21 PY	2 PY (9.5%)
TMDL Augment	33.5 PY	4.3 PY (13%)
Total	111.5 PY	15 PY (13%)

Staff Organization

- 2 TMDL Units – San Joaquin River Watershed and Sacramento River Watershed
- TMDL Project Managers & Technical Support
- Work on TMDL Project Teams

How are TMDLs being Addressed?

- Receive Information from Stakeholder Groups
 - ◆ SJR DO TMDL Steering Committee
 - ◆ Organo-phosphate Pesticide Focus Group

How are TMDLs being Addressed?

- Bring Information to Stakeholder Groups
 - ◆ Delta-Tributaries Mercury Council
 - ◆ Salt/Boron Basin Plan Work shops
 - ◆ Urban Pesticide Committee
- Other TMDLs will use both approaches

Challenges

- Big data gaps and basic scientific issues to resolve
- Identify effective practices/technologies
- Ensure TMDLs are Compatible

Challenges

- Focusing too much on certain tasks
- Time & resources for managing stakeholder groups
- Addressing the remaining 150 TMDLs + any new listings
- Participation of environmental interests

Challenges

Participation of Environmental Interests

- Met with Environmental Water Caucus and AB 982 Public Advisory Group
 - ◆ Too many meetings
 - ◆ Technical expertise not available

Challenges

Participation of Environmental Interests

- Potential solutions from Environmental Interest Perspective
 - ◆ RB staff lead TMDL development
 - ◆ Stakeholder participation during implementation planning; or
 - ◆ Provide funds

Accomplishments to Date

- Two TMDLs have been Completed & Approved
 - ◆ Selenium in Salt Slough
 - ◆ Selenium in the Grassland Marshes
 - ◆ Based on prohibitions of discharge

Near Term Activities

- Release numeric target reports
- Complete four TMDL reports by June 2001
- Begin preparation of next 303(d) List
- Hire and train more new staff

